

SHRI S. VIDUTHALAI VIRUMBI: Madam, from the reply given by the hon. Minister, we find that a particular company is approaching the Ministry. But we are not worried as to who has approached and what the problem with that company is. The other information given by the hon. Minister is that the test is being done in the Railway Ministry. *(Interruptions)* Yes, they said that it is under trial and it is working only for 6—8 cycles. I want to know from the hon. Minister whether any regeneration technology in this field is available in Germany, Britain and America. If so, whether the Railway Ministry has got any mechanism to interact with those countries and find out whether it is economically viable and technically feasible in Indian conditions so that it can be used in the Indian Railways. If the Railway Ministry doesn't have such a mechanism in place, then, have they got any plan to create such a mechanism? You leave this private company; I am not worried about it.

श्री नीतीश कुमार: माननीय उपसभापति महोदया, माननीय सदस्य ने कहा कि इस कंपनी का दावा है कि रिजनरेट करेंगे, लेकिन हमारा बैटरी चार्जिंग सिस्टम है जिससे कोच में वायर लगा रहता है और सेल्फ चार्जिंग होती रही है या फिर वह वर्कशॉप में गया तो वहां उसका मैकेनिज्म है, लेकिन रेलवे के पास इस प्रकार की इफॉर्मेशन अवेलेबल नहीं है कि दुनिया के दूसरे मुल्कों में इस प्रकार का कोई रिजनरेटर या इस प्रकार की टेक्नोलॉजी इस्तेमाल हो रही है या नहीं। अब माननीय सदस्य ने सुझाव दिया है तो रेल मंत्रालय को कहूंगा कि वह इंटरनेशनल रेलवे यूनियन, यूआईसी से संपर्क कर पता करने की कोशिश करें कि दूसरे रेलवे सिस्टम में ऐसी कोई टेक्नोलॉजी है या नहीं।

Conservation of lakes and ponds

*285. **SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA:** Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether any separate authority has been constituted for conservation and management of all the water bodies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, how the need to conserve lakes, ponds etc. would be taken care of?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BALU): (a) to (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) to (c) A National River Conservation Authority exists under the Chairmanship of Prime Minister to finalize the policy frame-work and oversee the implementation of conservation and management plans of rivers and lakes. A water Quality Assessment Authority has been constituted under the provisions of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 in May 2001 with Secretary of the Ministry of Environment and Forests as Chairman, for water quality management of surface and ground water bodies. A National River Conservation Plan is under implementation for conservation and pollution abatement of polluted rivers. Under this Plan, conservation and pollution abatement works have been approved in 153 towns along the polluted stretches of 28 rivers in 17 States. The estimated cost of these works is Rs. 3343 crore against which Central grants amounting to Rs. 1068 crore have been released so far. Conservation and management of rivers is one of the monitorable targets under the Tenth Plan. For conservation and management of lakes, National Lake Conservation Plan is under implementation. Under this scheme, plans for conservation and management of 7 urban polluted lakes have been approved at an estimated cost of Rs. 27.22 crore. These projects are under implementation and Central grants amounting to Rs. 9.79 crore have been released to the State Governments concerned so far.

SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Madam, the importance of water reservoirs, lakes and ponds is being felt in the country particularly now, when most parts of the country are facing a severe drought. We read daily in the newspapers that the courts are passing strictures on the prevailing pollution in the rivers of the country. The case of Yamuna River is before us. In his reply, the Minister has stated that under the National Conservation Plan, they are monitoring stretches of 28 rivers in the country. Would the hon. Minister tell us since when this monitoring work is going on and what are the concrete results? The Ganga Action Plan was started in 1985 and crores of rupees have been spent on it, but, still, the sacred river is polluted. What are your plans in this regard?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, as far as Phase-I of the Yamuna Action Plan is concerned, the Central Government has spent Rs. 655 crores on it. The State Government of Delhi has also spent an equal amount. The pollution load is 3300 MLD. But the existing capacity is

only 2300 MLD. Around 975 MLD of sewage has to be treated; then only the Yamuna Action Plan will be a true action plan. For that purpose, we have already initiated discussions with JBIC of Japan, and a project of about Rs. 2000 crores is on the anvil. Till the time the project is completed, these types of complaints will be there. As per the Supreme Court order, the riparian States have to release 10 cubic metre of water per second into the Yamuna. Every now and then, we are interacting with the Chief Ministers and the Chief Secretaries. About 15 days back, the Cabinet Secretary had taken a meeting. I think, most probably, it will come through, and the Yamuna Action Plan will partially be completed.

As far as Phase-I of the Ganga Action Plan is concerned...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You need to be a little brief, Mr. Minister.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, there were two questions; one was on the Yamuna and the other was on the Ganga.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Nothing is mentioned about Ganga or Yamuna in the Question. It is about the conservation of lakes and ponds. I don't think, Ganga and Yamuna are lakes.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, these questions have been permitted by your goodself only. If I don't reply, another Madam will find fault with me. I am scared of ladies, Madam. (*Interruption*) As far as Phase-I of the Ganga Action Plan is concerned, originally, ...(*Interruption*)...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: It is not related to the question. Ganga is not mentioned at all. I have another lady, and you may answer her questions.

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Madam, lakes and natural water resources are drying up now, particularly in Rajasthan, Haryana, Karnataka and Madhya Pradesh. Madam, I would like to know from the Hon'ble Minister what methods the Government has taken in order to develop these lakes.

Bangalore was known as the Garden City, and we had so many lakes in and around Bangalore, we used to have a very good wheather over there. Now-a-days, all the lakes have dried up, and are full of weeds. I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether he has taken any interest in preventing all these weeds from growing and in restoring purity of water in the lakes.

[2 August, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, definitely, the Central Government would take a lot of interest, provided the State Governments send proposals to the Central Government. Four projects which have been sent by the State of Karnataka, especially for the city of Bangalore, have been approved. These projects pertain to Jaraganahalli, Kamakshipalya, Nagavara and Kanakanakere. All these four projects, relating to lakes have been approved, and an amount of Rs. 2.79 crores has been granted.

As far as Tamil Nadu is concerned. Ooty and Kodaikanal have been approved, and the projects are underway. As far as Maharashtra is concerned, we have taken up Powai, and spent an amount of Rs. 4 crores. As far as the Ninth Plan is concerned, the total amount spent was Rs. 10 crores; for the Tenth Plan, we have provided Rs. 150 crores.

SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Madam, the Government of Karnataka has established a Lake Development Authority, under the Chairmanship of the Chief Secretary. The Forest Department has done enough work. A few lakes have been cleaned up, and the work is perfect. Yet, there are so many other lakes which have been neglected. I request the hon. Minister to look into it.

DR. KARAN SINGH: Madam, the drying up of fresh water lakes and ponds around the country is one of the more dramatic manifestations of deterioration of environment that we are witnessing over the last fifty years. A classic example of this is the famous Dal Lake in Kashmir. This lake, Madam, has shrunk from its original size. In my own lifetime, it has shrunk to less than half of what it was fifty years ago, and the lake is now full of weeds. Many attempts have been made in the past to revive it. I remember, even in my father's time, there were some attempts to get a dredger, but nothing has worked.

Would the hon. Minister be pleased to inform the House as to whether the Dal Lake Regeneration Project is, at all, bringing any results, or whether the crores of rupees that have been allotted to this are being wasted, without any tangible results. If so, would he give us a project report on this famous lake, because this was the glory of India and the glory of Kashmir?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, Chairperson, considering the importance of the Dal Lake which is drawing lot of tourists not only from our own country but also from foreign countries, we wanted to consider the Dal

Lake project and for that purpose Rs. 297.7 crores were earmarked. We requested the IIT Roorkee to prepare a DPR. In fact, the preparation of a DPR is not intended to be done by the Central Government. The concerned State Government has to prepare it. But on the request of the Central Government, IIT, Roorkee has already prepared a DPR and it has been lying with the State Government for the last two years. If the State Government gives its acceptance, I am here to take up the project immediately.

Dr. KARAN SINGH: Am I to understand that the State Government has not responded to the project report prepared by the IIT Roorkee.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: I am very sorry to reply you in negative.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: As the Minister is scared of women, so I will ask another women. ...*(Interruption)*...

डा० प्रभा ठाकुर: उपसभापति महोदया, आपके माध्यम से मैं माननीय पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगी कि क्या आपके विभाग में देश की प्रदूषित झीलों या तालाबों के जल को प्रदूषण से मुक्त करने के लिए वाटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट लगाए जाने संबंधी कोई योजना है? यदि है तो अब तक भारत के विभिन्न राज्यों में कहां-कहां और कितने वाटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट झीलों या तालाबों के जल की शुद्धिकरण के लिए लगाए जा चुके हैं? इसके साथ ही साथ मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से कहना चाहती हूं कि राजस्थान के अजमेर जिले में "पुष्कर" नामक एक तीर्थस्थान है, जिसे "तीर्थराज पुष्कर" कहा जाता है और पुष्कर के सरोवर का जल लगातार अनावृष्टि के कारण बिल्कुल सूख गया है। जहां करोड़ों श्रद्धालु विभिन्न अवसरों पर स्नान करने के लिए आते हैं, उस पुष्कर सरोवर का जल बिल्कुल प्रदूषित हो गया है। मैं जानना चाहूंगी कि उसे भी प्रदूषण से मुक्त करने के लिए, पुष्कर सरोवर में कोई वाटर ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट लगाने की कोई योजना है और यदि नहीं है, तो क्या आप इस बारे में कोई विचार कर सकते हैं?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, we have not received any such proposal as far as Pushkar Lake is concerned. But we have received a proposal for consideration with regard to Maansagar Lake Project in Jaipur.

As far as first part of the question is concerned, we do treat the polluted water by providing water treatment plants for the purpose. After treating this water, they drain it for irrigation or industrial purposes.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The main problem of drying of these lakes is due to siltation and water hyacinth. It reduces oxygen content

[2 August, 2002]

RAJYA SABHA

and because of this also die. You have to have projects of cleaning the lakes ...(*Interruption*)... The Same thing is there in Bhopal also.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, such projects have been taken up in Powai, Ooty, Kodaikanal, etc. because this problem was there. By treating polluted power, the problem of water hyacinth would also be solved.

डा० प्रभा ठुकर: मैडम, उदयपुर को झीलों की नगरी कहा जाता है, वहां पर भी ऐसे प्लांट की बहुत आवश्यकता है और पुष्कर सरोवर जिससे करोड़ों श्रद्धालुओं की भावनाएं जुड़ी हुई हैं, वहां भी इसकी बहुत आवश्यकता है। मैं आपके माध्यम से माननीय मंत्री जी से निवेदन करना चाहूंगी कि इसे भी आप अपनी परियोजना में शामिल करने की कृपा करें।

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, the State Government should send us a proposal in this regard. We will consider it.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think you should write a letter to the State Government. It is my suggestion. You write to the State Government. You do not depend on them. You have take this initiative on your own.

SHRI T.R. BALLU: I am very frequently interacting not only with the Chief Ministers but also with concerned Ministers. But the State Governments have to make use of the funds given by the Central Government for such type of projects.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Question Hour is over.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO STARRED QUESTIONS

Death of animals in Sariska

†*286. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of ENVIROMENT AND FOREST be pleased to state:

(a) the number of animals that died in Sariska Sanctuary this year as on date;

(b) the reasons for the death of animals;

(c) the steps taken by Government to check recurrence of such incidents infuture; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.